

Southern California Bridge News

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March 2010

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Board Activity for Reno

*by Rand Pinsky
District Director*

Before every national board meeting that I attend, management sends out a board packet which contains all of the motions and business that will be discussed and voted upon during our meetings. The cutoff date for submitting motions is still a few days away (I am writing this on February 15) so the board packets have not been completed. However, there have been plenty of emails circulating among board members discussing some of the motions we will be considering. The following is a sample of what is being discussed.

One motion that came from the Board of Governors in San Diego which the board will consider in Reno was that all regional pair games that are held at NABCs be at least 26 boards (13 rounds) and not 24 boards (12 rounds). Currently the sponsoring district has the option of setting the schedule for regional events of a NABC. In San Diego the committee wanted the pair games to end at about the same time the team games ended so that friends playing in different events could go to dinner together. That is why they had 24 board pair games. On the other side of the coin, some people playing in the pair game felt "cheated" that they did not get to play 26 boards for the card fees they were playing. I would

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



ACBL Statistics

*by Bill Schreiber
ALACBU President*

There is not much new to report on for this March issue, so this is the statistics report. As of January 1, 2010 our district membership is 3,548, up 2.1% from last year. The biggest increase is for the Antelope Valley Unit (#556) with an increase of 13.27%. In fact, the only units to show a decrease in membership were Glendale/ Verdugo (#553), Long Beach (#557) and San Fernando (# 561). Kudos to all the units who showed an increase in membership from the prior year.

The average age of players belonging to our district is 68.99 years, which is slightly above the league average of 68.91 years of age. The unit with the highest average age is Downey/Whittier (#564) with an average age of 71.3; the youngest is Pasadena/San Gabriel with an average age of 64.77.

Our district ranks 5th in average years of membership in the ACBL at 21.36. On a unit basis, players from Glendale/Verdugo have been members the longest at 31.27 years, players from Long Beach have been members the shortest at 19.25 years.

Don't forget about our upcoming tournaments; the Swiss Teams Sectional (including GNT Flights A and C) in May; Bridge Week from July 5 through July 11; and Marina Del Rey from October 12 through October 17.

I won't be going to Reno (tax season has always interfered with Spring NABC's)... but it is a close National Tournament, and I encourage you to go and have a great time.

~ See page 10 for GNT information ~

DIRECTOR *continued from page 1*

like to hear from anyone who has an opinion on this issue.

Another motion is the creation of a national event called the Super Senior Pairs. This would be open to players 70 years of age or older. This motion has been referred to the Special Event Committee of which I am the chair. Again, anyone who

has an opinion on this topic, please contact me at pinsky4bridge@earthlink.net.

There are also two motions to further create additional categories for rankings both below Life Master and above Life Master.

Another motion that effects members of the Board of Directors is one that will require all board

members to wear their name badges during the tournament for at least six sessions (I already wear mine all of the time), to participate in at least one additional committee other than the board (I am treasurer of the Educational Foundation), and to attend the Board of Governors meeting (which I do). By completing two of these three tasks board members will qualify to receive reimbursement for their hotel expenses from the end of the Board Meetings (usually on Thursdays) through Sunday (the day of the Board of Governors meeting).

I will report on the actual motions passed next month.

YOUTH4BRIDGE.ORG

Last month I wrote about two of our youth bridge players. I have received additional information this past month about some of our other bright young stars.

Here is an email I received:

“Hello! My name is Nolan Chang and I am currently a junior bridge player. My sister, Sophia, and I have played in various clubs and tournaments throughout Southern California. I am 13 years old while my sister is 8. We enjoy playing bridge because of the various new strategies and new combinations that continue to challenge us.”

I have asked Nolan to call me so I can get some additional information about him and his sister and also a picture of them at the bridge table. I hope to have it by next month. Thanks to Gary Swinhart for telling me about Nolan and Sophia.

That is all for now. See you in Reno.

News for the Bridge News?

Send your story to

bridgenews@acblidistrict23.org

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Around the Units in District 23

Antelope Valley By Gin

It is incredibly difficult to write a newsy column from a distance. The absence of communication from AVBC hinders the creative efforts of this writer. Reluctantly I will attempt to keep the column going until October, 2010. This should give the club plenty of time to find a local writer who I am sure will find the task a joy rather than the exhausting chore it has become.

January had some rather impressive winners. Charles Morrin and Sid Zalk ruled with a high game of 63.89% on Sunday. Marlene and Dave Gasper won both the afternoon game in Lancaster and the evening game in Valencia on Tuesday with respective games of 66.67% and 64.67%. Wednesday Brad Ward/Dave Gasper posted a monster game of 81.88%. Impressive!!! The Thursday morning game in Castaic was won by Theodore Maki/Gary Grey. Brad paired up with Willo Phillips to post a 72.92% Friday game.

Unit Game January 17 - Overall	A	B	C
Kathy Swaine/Rand Pinsky	1	-	-
Earlene Dehaas/George Lewis	2	1	1
Sandi and Ron Oest	3	2	-
Bill Brodek/Pat Juenneman	4	-	-
Mary Stauf/Henry Roediger	-	3	-
Doris Thompson/Lola Messiha	5	-	-
May Abagi/Colin MacDougall	-	4	2
Russ Buker/George MacDonald	-	-	3
Hal and Carol Underwood	-	-	4

A parting thought... Economists report the Joneses are having trouble keeping up with themselves.

*Thank your unit columnist by
sending them news.*

Glendale-Verdugo By Dorothy LaMaie

Saturday, March 13
11:00 a.m. Board of Directors meeting
12:15 p.m. Unit Day buffet lunch
1:00 p.m. Unit Day game time
Reservations 818-500-8669

In this month of March, not only do we acknowledge St. Patrick (some with libations hoisted in his name), but also those members listed below as winners in our unit's respective ACBL categories for the year 2009:

Mini-McKenney

Martha Marcon
Sara Seeley

Ace of Clubs

0-5

Sara Seeley
Corinne MacPherson

5-20

Drana Callery
Peter Woiceshyn

Drana Callery
Peter Woiceshyn

20-50

Temo Arjani
Dennis Teng
Jeremy Oldson

Temo Arjani
Dennis Teng
Jeremy Oldson

50-100

Elaine Moore
Brian Butler
Kathryn Riedel

Elaine Moore
Brian Butler
Kathryn Riedel

100-200

Eva Seri
Sterrett Harper
Nancy Lyon

Sterrett Harper
Eva Seri
Nancy Lyon

200-300

Sharon Wolf

Sharon Wolf

(200-300 continued)

Zeke Mataga	Lyle Wiedeman
Lyle Wiedeman	Joanne Parada

300-500

S. K. Leech	Joe Hasencamp
Joe Hasencamp	S. K. Leech
B. P. Petrunich	B. P. Petrunich

500-1000

Dan Botoaca	Harold Knowles II
Carol Frank	Arthur Chacanas
Harold Knowles II	Sixten Ohman

1000-2500

Richard Weinberger	Melina Stevens
Melina Stevens	Richard Weinberger
John Villalobos	Pat Juenemann

2500-5000

William Ng	Carolyn Cohen
Paul Nason	William Ng
Carolyn Cohen	Paul Nason

5000-7500

Thomas Lolli Jr.	Thomas Lolli Jr.
------------------	------------------

10000+

Jim Looby	Jim Looby
-----------	-----------

The official full listings will be posted at the Regency Club and ACBL certificates will awarded to 1st place winners at the April 10 Unit Game.

Moving on to recent attainments, Carolyn Cohen registered three consecutive wins in a row at the Regency, as did Bob Tayrien. Bob also made a quality move by scoring a 73.33% game with good partner, Tim Lolli.

Pat and Norman Abbey had a special highlight on their east-to-west cruise through the Panama Canal recently. With a stop-off in Panama, they drove to a remote site on the Chagras River, boarded a dug-out canoe and headed upstream 45 minutes to an Embera Indian village in the rain forest. The Embera are very small people, scantily dressed to accommodate the climate. They use black paint in body art, and other artistic endeavors include carving animal likenesses and the weaving of beautiful baskets. They were also

great hosts and prepared freshly speared fish and delicious regional fruit for lunch, entertaining with songs and dances. So who needs a computer?!? Pat and Norman did. That was how they found this exceptional adventure: via the internet...

As for the February Unit Game Merry and Eva donned the toques for the "chili-with-beans" and "chili-without" entrees while Margaret and I (and Marie Callender) provided the after-entree yummys. Thus buffered, we entered the fray with these following laudable results:

North/South

A1		Carolyn Cohen/Melina Stevens
A2	B1	C1 Sharon Wolf/Mike Doll
A3	B2	Barbara McKissick/Vernon Thomas
A4		J. Villalobos/Paul Nason

East/West

A1	B1	C1	Don Botoaca/Mike Marcucci
A2	B2		E. Tapelband/R. Hogan
A3			Gerry Belcher/Bob Tayrien
A4	B3	C2	Sixten Ohman/Tom Miyoaka

Happy Valentines to all of the above and a special one to Sherry Strube for coming all that way from Scottsdale! Take care, everybody...

Long Beach

Unit website: www.acblunit557.org

Club website: www.LongBeachBridge.com

by Jon Yinger

February 14 unit game: Overall results: 1st in A: Steve Skinner/George Thompson, 2nd Sandra Franciscus/Mark Hartzel, 3rd Kimi Matsumoto/Mark Teaford, 4th Audrey Ellis/Tom Ludwig, 5th Sean Lui/Michael Daley, 6th Simon and Linda Cheng. Also in the overalls Carol Murakoshi/Hank Dunbar were 1st in C. Overall winners in the Non-Life Master game were: 1st in A: Karen and Mike McKittrick, 2nd Monica Gettis/Claudette Barrack, 3rd Sue Blom/Joanne Van Sandt, 4th Tsu Jan/ David Hwang and 5th Mike and Bert Nielsen. Congratulations to all!

70+% games 1/15 through 2/15: Mark Teaford/Gary Paugh had a 70.23% in the open game on Monday, Feb 1, and Bill Heck/Jim Warner had a 71.88% game in

District 23 Rank Changes 1/1/10 - 1/31/10

Junior Master (5 MPs)

Robert Adams
Richard Barrack
Donald Garner
Martha Hunt
Margaret Kahn
Ramanathpur Murthy
Doug Senour

Club Master (20 MPs)

George Alemshah
Robert Brogan
Lake Ellstrom
Steve Goeden
Bernhard Haderl
Joanna Jones-Reed
Donna Kupfer
Larry Kussin
Peter Lifland
James Nathan
Lillian Sender
Edna Ulasewicz
Ryan Wessels

Regional Master (100 MPs)

Michael Keston
Karen McKittrick
Mike McKittrick
Elizabeth Morrin
Ann Raymond

NABC Master (200 MPs)

Fay Beckerman
Michael Daley
Tai Wang

Life Master (300 MPs)

Ronald Carlson
Kathy Harouche
Tish Kernochan
Lisa Kuo
Diane Licht
Betty Stewart
Mike Ullman

Bronze Life Master (500 MPs)

Richard Cutler
Audrey Pauly

Silver Life Master (1000 MPs)

Shirley Andrews
Brad Beland
Charles Morrin

Gold Life Master (2500 MPs)

Mark Tang

Congratulations!

the 99er game Saturday, Jan 30. Congratulations to all of you!

Big master point awards: 1st over-all in club games Jan 16 through Feb 15: Jan 24 Steve Skinner/Bob Lavery won 3.68mp; Feb 2 George Thompson/Phil Schuster won 6.09mp; Feb 6 Donna Wenberg/George Welsh won 3.83mp; Feb 7 Bob Mault/Phyllis Parker won 3.67mp; Feb 8 Marcus Evans/Bev Shafer won 5.00mp; Feb 9 in the afternoon game Joan Culbertson/Jude Pede won 6.00mp, and in the evening game Steve and Charlotte Sturm won 3.17mp; Feb 10 Donna Wenberg/Mark Teaford won 4.67mp; Feb 11 Mark Teaford/Gary Paugh won 4.83mp; Feb 12 in the afternoon open game Stanley Snyder/Ron Lien won 6.00mp; in the NLM game Mike and Karen McKittrick won 3.20mp, and in the evening game Charlotte and Steve Sturm won 3.33mp; Feb 13 Peggy Waite/Jon Yinger won 3.83mp; in the Feb 14 Unit Game George Thompson/Steve Skinner won 5.24mp. Big awards for 2nd overall: Feb 2 Sharon and Al Appel won 4.57mp; Feb 8 Verna Baccus/Lorrie Schramm won 3.75mp; Feb 9 Ralph Beazley/Walter Rothstein won 4.50mp; Feb 10 Jackie Hess/John Farr won 3.50mp; Feb 11 Susan Powers/Allen Gobert won 3.62mp; Feb 12 Irwin Bender/Lois Abramson won 4.50mp; and in the Feb 14 Unit Game Sandra Franciscus/Mark Hartzel won 3.93mp. Big awards for 3rd overall: Feb 2 Chiye Horiguchi/Mark Tang won 3.43mp; Feb 9 Mike Daley/Earl VanDerVord won 3.38mp; and Feb 12 Betty McClellan/Verna Baccus won 3.38mp. Congratulations to all!

New members and new status: We issue a warm welcome to new members Avie Bombar, Loe Lau, Rosalie Storc, Lois Mullin, and Mark Teaford (who transferred from Unit 513). Welcome all! **Status changes:** Junior Masters: George Alemshah and Bonny Walsh; Club Master: Jerome Smith; Sectional Master: Elaine Dovgard; Regional Master: Aaron Jones; NABC Master: Louise Sperr; Life Masters: Rosemary Ford, Pritzi Lembi, Sherry Troeger, and Annette Sincock; and Bronze Life Master: Judy Carter-Johnson, Sherry Troeger, and Sue Fardette. Congratulations to you all!!

Upcoming special events at the club: Sunday, March 14 Unit Game - lunch at 12:30, game at 1 p.m.—non-life masters play for \$5. Wednesday, March 17 unit-rated St. Patrick's Day Game - March 22 through March 28 STaC Week—silver points. All special games: regular prices, extra points.

Condolences: to family and friends of Betse Straub who passed away earlier this month.

Get well wishes: to Betty Barton, Ed Neuroth, and Joy Rosenthal.

Get on the email list for the newsletter: If you miss getting the newsletter by snail mail (it's been a year since the district quit mailing them out), you can have me send you a copy by e-mail. Send me your e-mail address and I'll put you on the list. My email is jjyinger1@gmail.com.

Pasadena San Gabriel Valley

www.acblunit559.com

By Jan Wickersham and Roy Wilson

Unit Game

February 27, Elks Lodge Arcadia

Our crazy schedule for the unit games is in full swing, and it looks like the players are, too. Our February unit game held at the end of January was a huge success. Peter Szecsi was in charge of the food, and once again prepared his famous Chinese Chicken Salad with quite a bit of help from Bernie Mateer. (Thanks, Bernie, for all the help from the "wings.") We were down a bit on table count as some of our members were out in Riverside at the Regional. Jake Frenkel and Miriam Harrington, the brother/sister act, managed to sweep first in A and B. Jake is having quite the success at the table. He and Wayne Phillips won the Jackpot of \$160 in a recent Wednesday night game and then Jake and John Jones won the Monday game on President's Day. Jack and Nolan Chang, the father/son act, were first in C. Congratulations to all of you. Peter Szecsi is the luckiest when it comes to the raffle drawing. He managed to secure the winning ticket and went home \$35 richer.

We celebrated Chinese New Year in style at one of the Monday games in February. Robert Chiu, Jeanne Dea, and Shiu-Ming Huang treated us to wonderful Chinese food to celebrate the New Year, and, because it was the President's Holiday, we were full to the brim with 25 tables. Thanks so much for the generous and very tasty food!

It's not too late to get tickets for the Election Party on February 27, a Saturday, at the Arcadia Elk's Lodge. Tickets are \$35 for two sessions of bridge and a great meal in between. We start with an Open Game at noon

and there will be hand records later. Between sessions there is a promise of a wonderful dinner, served by the volunteers of the Elk's. You have a choice of prime rib or salmon, and then we conclude with a Swiss Teams event. Our new slate of officers will be presented and we will recognize our new Life Masters (there are eight this year) as well as award the prizes and certificates to the winners of our special events in 2009.

Do you use the Jacoby 2NT bid to show a good raise for your partner's opening bid of a major? There are certainly a lot of variations to this convention. Are you sure that your partner is in agreement with how you like to play it? Here are some thoughts for a discussion... The basics: A jump response to 2NT over partner's 1♥ or 1♠ bid shows 4-card support and an opening hand. The generally accepted rebid by opener in a new suit is that it shows a singleton or void. Not holding a singleton, opener might rebid the major at the three level or the four level. (Most players define the jump to game as the weaker method, indicating a minimum opening hand.) With a good hand, opener has a choice of rebids... Here's where one of the variations in this convention occurs – does your partner have the same understanding about the rebid of 3NT that you do? Some partnerships will tell it shows a better than minimum hand, with about 15-17 points, which is the same as an opening notrump bid. Other partnerships agree that 3NT shows a good hand, but with a poor quality trump suit. Players who use this have decided that rebidding three of the major also shows a good hand, but with a good trump suit. Talk to your partner!

Here's another difference: The opener can jump to the 4-level over the 2NT raise, also showing better than minimum, but what does it mean? Again, there is more than one agreement amongst bridge players. One group will tell you it defines a good hand with specifically a void in the bid suit. (As opposed to the new-suit bid at the three level showing a singleton.) A second group says a jump rebid shows another 5-card suit, so by inference, opener must have a singleton or void elsewhere. And a smaller group of players will tell you the second suit could be only a 4-card suit, but opener has a good hand. Now... how does your partner play this?

Oh, and here's another point... When your partner jumps to 2NT you can agree that a rebid of 3♣ says you have an undefined singleton/void somewhere in the hand, (rather than specific shortness in clubs) but you have a minimum hand of 11-14 points. If your partner

still has an interest in slam he can ask again, usually by bidding 3♦. The Jacoby 2NT raise can be a valuable bidding tool, but it can be a lurking disaster unless both partners have the same understanding about the rebids. I should add that a small book could be written on this subject, so I certainly have not covered the topic in any depth, but perhaps it will spark a discussion with your partner.

See you at the table!

Pomona-Covina

By Vic Sartor

It seems like our members have been spending more time abroad

Unit Game
Saturday, March 20
Lunch 11:00 a.m.
Game follows

recently than Hillary Clinton, but our globetrotting contingent seemed to have settled on an unusual hot spot during February— one not usually part of the jetsetters' itinerary. The tourist magnet? Riverside!! With both a sectional and a regional occurring within a two-week period, local players flocked to our neighboring city in search of glory and master points.

Top performers in the sectional were Lynne Parker/Karen Olin, who took 1st in B and C and 4th in A in the open pairs. Also placing were Joe Unis, Mary Miller, Karen McCarthy, Bill Papa, Vic Sartor, Walt Otto, Dave Ruoff, Susan Ruoff, Ron Purkis, Ned Sissel, Denise Morgan, Ann McClelland, Sandy Jones, and Bridget O'Sullivan.

In the regional, four local teams took wins in stratified knockout

Bob Kerr

Robert Andrew "Bob" Kerr died January 30, 2010 at the age of 74 from complications following a stroke. Bob was a long time resident of Los Angeles, CA; however, in recent years he split his time between Los Angeles and the San Francisco Bay Area where his brother and sister resided.

Bob was a graduate of Huntington Park High School and Stanford University. Bob's love of trains made Southern Pacific Railroad the perfect launch for his career and after he moved to U.S. Borax he continued the train connection working in the transportation management division until his retirement in 2002.

Although Bob was avid in his pursuit of multiple interests, bridge was his true passion for more than 50 years. Bob had many bridge successes at the club and tournament level, rising to the ACBL rank of Emerald Life Master. Although Bob loved to win as much as anyone, he got true enjoyment from mentoring young players. Many of Bob's bridge friends and partners told him he could accumulate more master points if he would just play more events with others at his level; however, Bob believed that giving back to the game that gave so much to him should be a priority.

Bob Kerr's Bridge friends and partners can be found from coast to coast; he will be deeply missed in the bridge community.

COWABUNGA DUDE



DON'T FORGET

THE BALBOA SECTIONAL

July 16th

July 17th

July 18th

Friday

Saturday

Sunday

BE THERE OR BE SQUARE

events. Lary Alba, Cordell Goode, Dave Ruoff, and Susan Ruoff won in class 2; Susan Emminger, Ned Sissel, Ron Purkis, and Russ Drew won in class 3; Lynne Parker, Mary Miller, Karen McCarthy, and Richard Patterson won in class 5; and Clint Lew and Walt Otto were part of a winning class 3 team. Milt Kalikman was on a winning class 2 team and scored in several other events to finish as the top unit master point winner with 21.77. Close behind was Lary Alba (20.41). Lynne Parker (18.13), Susan Emminger (17.53), Cordell Goode (16.57), Mary Miller (15.44), Karen McCarthy (15.44), Clint Lew (11.64), Susan Ruoff (11.21), and Dave Ruoff (11.21) also scored in double digits.

In local results, the unit game had a tie for first among Lary Alba, Cordell Goode, Hans Hehnke, and

Vic Sartor, with Kerry Sartor and Margaret Merritt winning opposite direction. The monthly individual was won by Norma Appley, followed by Milt Kalikman, Pat Radamaker, Linda Stuart, Tom Lill, and Karen McCarthy. Top club game of the month was a 67.21% turned in by Walt Otto and Joe Unis. Other winners were Lary Alba, Dave Ruoff, Louis Duner, Michael Horn, Milt Kalikman, Barbara Papa, Bill Papa, Vic Sartor, Susan Ruoff, Herb Stampfl, Edwin Kelly, Donald Naf, George Altinus, John Tyner, Richard Patterson, Kurt Trieselmann, Ken Bloomfield, and Sue Rottner.

Two freaks and a tough hand to bid are our top candidates for hand of the month. When was the last time you held AKQ10xxxxx plus one side entry and had the suit split 4-0-0, turning 10 sure running tricks at no

The Las Vegas Regional

June 7-13, 2010



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	Tues	9:00 a.m., 1:00 & 7:00 p.m.	
Tuesday-Wednesday	Both days	1:00 & 7:00 p.m.	
Wednesday-Thursday	Both days	1:00 & 7:00 p.m.	
Thursday-Friday	Both days	1:00 & 7:00 p.m.	
Friday-Saturday	Both days	1:00 & 7:00 p.m.	
BRACKETED COMPACT KNOCKOUTS			
Weekend Compact	Fri-Sat	9:00 a.m.	
Saturday Compact	Saturday	1:00 & 7:00 p.m.	

Flight A/X 0-5000/5000+ B/C/D 0-750/1500/2500
Strat A 2500+ B 750-2500 C 0-750

All open stratified events are stratified by the average masterpoints of the team or pair.

The Partnership Desk at the Tournament Opens One Hour Before Game Time for All Events

Special Program for Newer Players

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- ▲ **Friendly** bridge professionals available to review the play following afternoon tournament sessions
- ▲ **Informative** lectures with **helpful handouts** and audio-visuals

This program will be hosted by bridge professional Jade Barrett who has coached and mentored U.S. Junior teams and has been a driving force in support of the ACBL Junior program. He is a frequent lecturer at tournaments.

NEWCOMER (I/N) GAMES

0-300 mp Pair Games Every Session Mon-Sat
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MONDAY, JUNE 7

Stratified Charity Swiss Teams (20-VP Scale) (1 session)1:00 p.m.
Stratified Charity Pairs1:00 p.m.
Newer Player Charity Stratified Pairs1:00 & 7:00 p.m.
Monday-Tuesday KO's (1st of 4 sessions)7:00 p.m.
(Continuing Tuesday at 9:00, 1:00 & 7:00)
Stratified Mon-Wed Side Game Series (single session or 1st of 5)7:00 p.m.
All Monday games other than Kos are single sessions.

TUESDAY, JUNE 8

Stratified Swiss Teams (20-VP Scale) (single session)9:00 a.m.
Stratified Morning Side Game Series (single session or 1st of 5)9:00 a.m.
Newer Player Stratified Pairs (single sessions)9:00 a.m., 1:00 & 7:00 p.m.
Monday-Tuesday KO's (2nd, 3rd, & final sessions)9:00 a.m., 1:00 & 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday-Wednesday KO's (1st & 2nd of 4 sessions)1:00 & 7:00 p.m.
Stratified Open Pairs (2 sessions)10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.
Stratified Mon-Wed Side Game Series
(single session or 2nd & 3rd of 5)1:00 &/or 7:00 p.m.
Stratified Swiss Teams (20-VP Scale) (single session)7:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9

Stratified Swiss Teams (1st of 2 sessions, Wed-Thu)9:00 a.m.
Stratified Morning Side Game Series (single session or 2nd of 5)9:00 a.m.
Newer Player Stratified Pairs (single sessions)9:00 a.m., 1:00 & 7:00 p.m.
Monday-Tuesday KO's (3rd session & final session)1:00 & 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday-Wednesday KO's (1st & 2nd of 4 sessions)1:00 & 7:00 p.m.
Stratified Open Pairs (2 sessions)10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.
Stratified Mon-Wed Side Game Series
(single session or 4th & 5th of 5)1:00 &/or 7:00 p.m.
Stratified Swiss Teams (20-VP Scale) (single session)7:00 p.m.

THURSDAY, JUNE 10

Stratified Swiss Teams (2nd of 2 sessions)9:00 a.m.
Stratified Morning Side Game Series (single session or 3rd of 5)9:00 a.m.
Newer Player Stratified Pairs (single sessions)9:00 a.m., 1:00 & 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday-Thursday KO's (3rd session & final session)1:00 & 7:00 p.m.
Thursday-Friday KO's (1st & 2nd of 4 sessions)1:00 & 7:00 p.m.
Stratified Open Pairs (2 sessions)10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.
Stratified Thu-Sat Side Game Series
(single session or 1st & 2nd of 6)1:00 &/or 7:00 p.m.
Stratified Swiss Teams (20-VP Scale) (single session)7:00 p.m.

FRIDAY, JUNE 11

Morning Compact KO's (1st of 2 sessions, Fri-Sat)9:00 a.m.
Stratified Morning Side Game Series (single session or 4th of 5)9:00 a.m.
Newer Player Stratified Pairs (single sessions)9:00 a.m., 1:00 & 7:00 p.m.
Thursday-Friday KO's (3rd session & final session)1:00 & 7:00 p.m.
Friday-Saturday KO's (1st & 2nd of 4 sessions)1:00 & 7:00 p.m.
Stratified Open Pairs (2 sessions)10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.
Stratified Thu-Sat Side Game Series
(single session or 3rd & 4th of 6)1:00 &/or 7:00 p.m.
Stratified Swiss Teams (20-VP Scale) (single session)7:00 p.m.

FREE COMEDY SHOW!



After the evening session on **Wednesday, June 9**, Dana Daniels will team up with his **Psychic Parrot Luigi (yes a Psychic Parrot)** to perform incredible magic blended with rapid-fire comedy to create truly Memorable entertainment.

This FREE show takes place in the Club 373 Showroom, right in the bridge ballroom and comes with free beer, soda, and snacks. Don't miss this GREAT SHOW!

SATURDAY, JUNE 12

Morning Compact KO's (2nd of 2 sessions)9:00 a.m.
Stratified Morning Side Game Series (single session or 5th of 5)9:00 a.m.
Newer Player Stratified Pairs (single sessions)9:00 a.m., 1:00 & 7:00 p.m.
Stratified Open Pairs (2 sessions)10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.
Friday-Saturday KO's (3rd session & final session)1:00 & 7:00 p.m.
Saturday Compact KO's (2 sessions)1:00 & 7:00 p.m.
Stratified Thu-Sat Side Game Series
(single session or 5th & 6th of 6)1:00 &/or 7:00 p.m.
Stratified Swiss Teams (20-VP Scale) (single session)7:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, JUNE 13

Stratified Fast Pairs (finish by 4:15 p.m.)10:00 a.m. & 1:30 p.m.
Newer Player Swiss Teams (single sessions)10:00 a.m. & 2:00 p.m.
Flight A Swiss Teams (20-VP Scale) (play through)10:00 a.m.
Stratified B/C/D Swiss Teams (20-VP Scale) (play through)10:00 a.m.
(All Swiss Teams will finish by 5:00 p.m.)

District 17 GNT Finals

Play begins Friday June 11 at 1:00 & 7:00 p.m. for all flights and continues through Sunday, June 13, for the Championship flight and Flight A. Flight B and C will play Friday and Saturday.



LVRegional.com

Sanction # R1006012

trump into four? Or when was the last time your partner overcalled one heart and caught you with AJ10xxxx in the suit? The problem hand was also a beaut.

You hold: ♠-- ♥AKQxx ♦10xx ♣Axxxx. The auction goes 1♥ by you, 3♣ by LHO, 3♠ by your pard, pass by RHO. Your bid. Do you rebid your 5-card suit? Bid 3NT with only one stopper and a void? Any other genius suggestions? If you hold your nose and bid 3NT, you come out smelling like a rose. Pard is 6 – 1 – 5 – 1 with both black aces and AKQ10x of diamonds. Your 3NT bid lets him introduce his other suit and lets you get to a conservative 5♦ or tight 6♦, which makes with your usual sterling declarer play. May all your pushy slams enjoy the same success. 'Til next time...

San Fernando Valley by Fran Kern

Upcoming unit events: The San Fernando Valley Sectional is scheduled for April 2010.

Friday, April 16 games at The 750 Bridge Club at the Prince of Peace Church, 5700 Rundnick Ave, Woodland Hills. Games at 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. for Open Pairs, Junior Games, and Knockouts.

Saturday, April 17 Games at the Bridge Academy at 6733 Variel Ave., Canoga Park. Games at 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. for Open Pairs, Junior Games, and Knockouts.

Sunday, April 18 Games at the Bridge Academy. Games start at noon and are limited to Swiss Teams.

The Top Ten Masterpoint Winners for January:
750 Bridge Club: Ron Malkin 10.67; Jim Lechner 5.93; Herb Zweig 5.73; Gloria Malkin 5.43; Phil Swan 5.13; Joyce Hart 5.09; Sue Sarture 4.67; Paul Endler 4.62; Don Rosen 4.45; Peggy Amato 3.80.

Bridge Academy 299 Game: Marty Hurwitz 3.73; Anne Hurwitz 3.73; Marge Bulmer 2.60; Robert Glasser 2.58; Doug Odney 2.47; Joe Friscia 2.47; Joan Farrar 2.18; Patricia Shellogg-Seal 1.93; Myrna Kalman 1.93; Wayne (Doug) Beagle 1.66.

Bridge Academy Open Game: Andrew Vinock 22.22; Gilbert Stinebaugh 18.94; Leda Danzig 18.39; Marta Peltz 17.53; Armand Szulc 17.08; Tom Wylie 14.82; Freddie Straus 12.55; Sheila Bozin 10.80; Seymour Zemlyn 10.69; William Carlson, Jr. 9.36.

70% Games for January: Bill Taylor/Ron Malkin

70.42; Mel Lerner and Alene Friedman 70.24. Michael Wiener/Jeffrey Millman 72.60.

In memoriam: Unit members mourn the recent loss of former Director Mike Halprin and extend condolences to his family.

Column news: Make sure your bridge news will appear in the next edition of Bridge News by sending it to Fran Kern at fkern818@aol.com.

Torrance-South Bay

Unit website:

<http://www.freewebs.com/bridgeatunit568>

SBBC website:

<http://www.bridgeclubs.org/index.php?id=sbbc>

By Steve Mager

Club Championships: On January 19 the Club

Club Championship - 11:30 a.m.
Tuesday, March 2

Club Championship - 11:30 a.m.
Monday, March 8

Club Championship - 7:00 p.m.
Monday, March 15

NLM Club Championship - 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday, March 17

District 22/23 STaC
Monday, March 22 - Sunday, March 28

STaC Swiss - 7:00 p.m. , Tuesday, March 23

Championship was won by Dick Cheng/C. M. Meaux. The NLM Club Championship on January 20 was captured by Karen and Mike McKittrick in both flights A and B. The January 29 Club Championship was won by Grace Conde/Gabriela Jackson in Flight A with Sheryl Kohlhoff/Patty Taylor taking Flight B. The February 4 Club Championship was won by Fran Israel/Ray Mack in Flight A and Mahin Khadivi/Bernard Gee in Flight B. On February 8 Gerri Carlson/John J. McDermott led the way in flight A with Mark Raggio/Stamley Greengard ahead in Flight B and Joan Chrishal/Clara Trummer leading the way in Flight C.

Team Winners: On January 19 and February 2 the quartet of Mary Ann Coyle, John Farr, Bo Bogema and John J. McDermott won. The January 26 game saw Winnie Ninneman, David Peim, Barbara Shortwell

and Henry Crowder on top. The February 9 game was led by Bea and John Brailliar, CVal Gamio and Carole Mason.

Riverside Regional Heroes and Heroines from TSB: The Citrus Compact KO Bracket 4 was captured by Dolly and Bruce Weiner, Krystyna and Dennis Hollingworth. The BCD Swiss was dominated by TSB unit members. Top spot in Flight B was captured by Cal and JoAnne Waller plus former unit members Diane and John Gunther. Second in Flight B, first in Flights C and D was a team with unit members Lutrell Long, Steve Ramos and Ron Srenco. John Jones was on teams that won a Brackett 1 KO and Compact KO.

GUV Memorial Award: Recent events have proven that both a man and a machine that were considered infallible are, in fact, fallible. John Farr recently chalked up a perfect 800 score in the Bridge World's Master Solver's Bidding contest. However his infallibility myth was broken at a recent South Bay Bridge Club game with 15.5 tables. East/West pairs had a sitout round at table 16 and John (at table 1) was supposed to deliver

boards to this table. Instead he delivered sets from the first five rounds to table 15. When this was discovered several East/West pairs wound up having two (or more) sitouts. This game may still not yet be scored for East/West pairs.

Many felt that those magic Bridgemate units that send board results to the directors were infallible as long as the correct results were input. At a recent sectional partner and I were plus 300 on one board. The North player asked a director to help her input the result. He did and I saw and approved the score. When looking at the result on the score sheet after the game, however, we were minus 420 on the board. Ordinarily I would have to produce the opponents to agree they had input a mistaken result. But, bless him, the director remembered the plus 300 and changed the score. Still, one wonders about the infallibility of these machines after that experience.

Na Zdrowie

2010 Grand National Teams Location and Dates

Flight	Dates	Player Masterpoint Limits
Open Flight	April 24-25	0-unlimited
Flight A	May 22-23	0-5000
Flight B	April 24-25	0-2000
Flight C	May 22-23	Non Life Master under 500

Masterpoint limits based on recorded points as of 9/1/2009

All Events:

- Take place at the San Fernando Valley Bridge Academy (818) 999-9131
6733 Variel, Canoga Park 91303
- Swiss Qualifying on Saturday for Sunday Knockout
- Teams must have 4, 5 or 6 players
- Game Times: 10:30 a.m. and TBA
- Players can enter more than 1 event (on separate weekends)
- Winning team can represent District 23 in New Orleans this summer
- Winning teams to receive partial refund of expenses for trip to the finals
- For complete conditions of contest see the ALACBU website at www.acbldistrict23.org
- Questions? Call Howard Einberg (310) 475-9784 or Bill Wickham (310) 234-3238

West L.A. by candy

The West L.A. Sectional starts Friday evening, April 30 at the Barrington Bridge Club with knockouts and a stratified pair game. Game time is 7:30. On Saturday and Sunday, the sectional moves to the Kayne Eras Center in Culver City. Saturday there will be a Compact KO and the finish of the regular KOs, plus pair games at 10:00 and 3:00. Sunday will be the Swiss teams starting at 10:00. Complete schedule elsewhere in this paper. Remember we have homemade goodies: brownies by Barbara and Beverly and something wonderful from Ellen Kent's oven. I'm admittedly a chocoholic, but I do have a wide repertoire of cupcakes and muffins.

Bob Kerr's passing has touched many of us all over the bridge world. His mentors in Pro-Ams learned that a pro is not synonymous with a body part. Bob was kind and a gentleman at and away from the table. I was one of his late night people that got to talk to him about everything: bridge, sports (Stanford), art and architecture, trains, history, religion... Even if we didn't agree, I always respected his opinions. A true Renaissance Man and mensch.

Two valued members of our unit died this month. Thelma Sacks and Bernie Ravitz will be missed by their many friends and partners.

Howard and Sandy's daughter, Davita, gave birth to their first grandchild, Jessica Lily. Mazel Tov to Jim and Davita Kies, your mother is now a member of the "proud carrier of baby pictures" club.

Celebrating their exalted move to Life Master were Sue Ann Simon, Sally Karbelnig, and Trudi Graham. There was a lot of change in ranks this month: Junior Masters: Michel Brand, Susan Cohen, Kay Faguet, Robert Feinberg, Nancy Koss, Pamela Morton, Michael Schindler, Jerry Weisman, and Stephanie Young; Club Master: Nancie Barrier, Sharon Fadem, David Lyons, and Misty Weiss; Sectional Master: Lee Axelrod; Regional Master: Phyllis Selig-Kerns; NABC Masters: Beverly Goldner, Marcia Lauffer-Rosner, Clay Levine, Joan and Steven Little, Donna Massman, Rick Turner, and Stephen Weiner; Bronze Life Master: Angelika Hederer; Silver Life Master: Robert Shore; Gold Life Master: Gary King; and Diamond Life Master: Ifty Baqai.

The winners of the Ace of Clubs were: Michael Abeles,

Karen Schwartz, Richard Gliksman, John Stokdyk, Robert Martin, Sue Ann Simon, Alan Schneider, Joyce Lelah, Gary King, Paul Smith, Jill Richmond, Margie Michelin, and Becky Clough.

This month was also a month of 70%ers: Jordan Chodorow/Harvey Katz, Gerson Ragfogel/Shirley Lang, Ed Feldmann/Richie Weinberger, Sam Namer/Zalman Perelman, Lois/Eli Borok, Denny Seltzer/Paul Smith, Jill Richmond/Paul Smith, Sheri Rivera/Aram Bedros, Art Zail/Aram Bedros, Ed Barad/Norman Avrech, Adrienne Green/Mim Spertus (twice), Ken Bishop/Mauricio Epelbaum, and Gail Haller/Tony Medley.

Club Champs at Beverly Hills were: Gerson Rapfogel/Toby Green, Rhoda and Lew Himmell, Sam Namer/David Raphel, Marshall Wengrow/Michael Brand and at Barrington: A: Jill Richmond/Paul Smith, Jill Richmond/Steve Yaffe, Ken Bishop/Maurice Epelbaum; B: Bella Feniger/Peggy Levin, and Norman Avrech/Doug Green; and C: Michael Shaw/Bill Rogers.

Last month we got to celebrate Halloween early with Mardi Gras and Purim. This month as we Spring forward into St. Patrick's Day in which we get to buy really cheap corned beef, cabbage, and green beer, throw them in a pot and cook them forever. Do not drink the green beer or your corned beef will be as dry as the matzah you have to eat at the end of the month. Then I buy enough stuff for Passover that I get a free ham to be used next month when we have a bunny with a basket full of Peeps he's trying to get rid of. Until next month when I'll have my top ten things you can do with Peeps.



The Continuing Adventures of PatoMike and Sharp Fang

By Mike Savage

On this hand from the Long Beach Regional IMP Pairs (session one), Sharp Fang aggressively decided to bid game, and he had no interest in any game other than 3NT.

North

♠ A 10 x x
♥ x
♦ J x
♣ A Q 10 x x x

IMPs

Dealer: East
Vulnerability: None

The bidding at our table:

North	East	South	West
-------	------	-------	------

South

♠ K 9 x x
♥ K x x
♦ Q x x x
♣ K x

	pass	pass	1♥
2♣	pass	2NT	3♥
3NT	all pass		

Lead: ♥Q

North decided to go for game and rather than bid 3S in case they had a 4-4 fit, decided to go for the nine-trick game so that South could be declarer – protecting his heart holding. As it turns out since clubs split, 3NT was the only game in town that makes, especially since East held the QJxx of spades. West had the AQJ10xxx of hearts as well as the AKx of diamonds and so 3NT could not be defeated.

At many tables North sold out to 3H by West, which went down one trick and at other tables N/S played in a club or spade part-score so bidding and making game, vulnerable was a big IMP gain for us.

WEST LOS ANGELES SPRING SECTIONAL



Friday Night Game at
Barrington Bridge Club



KAYNE ERAS CENTER
5350 Machado Road
Culver City, CA 90230
APRIL 30 - MAY 2, 2010



Friday Night Game at
Barrington Bridge Club
11502 Santa Monica Blvd.
(310) 966-4144

FRIDAY, APRIL 30th
7:30 pm

BRACKETED KNOCKOUT TEAMS

STRATIFIED OPEN PAIRS

SATURDAY, MAY 1st

10:00 am

**STRATIFLIGHTED OPEN PAIRS IN HONOR
OF WEST LOS ANGELES**

PLAYER OF YEAR EDDIE KANTAR

Flight A/X (approx. 35% of field) 0 - unlimited
Flight Strats B, C, D 0 - 2,000 MP

COMPACT KNOCKOUT TEAMS 1st & 2nd matches
BRACKETED KNOCKOUT TEAMS - 2nd Session

3:00 pm

BRACKETED KNOCKOUT TEAMS - Finals
STRATIFIED OPEN PAIRS
COMPACT KNOCKOUT TEAMS 3rd & 4th matches

SUNDAY, May 2nd

10:00 am and TBA

STRATIFLIGHTED SWISS TEAMS

Flight A/X 0 - Unlimited MP
(approximately 35% of field)

Strats B, C, D 0 - 2,000MP

COMPETE FOR TWO TROPHIES

The West Los Angeles Unit player winning the most master points combined at the two 2010 West Los Angeles Sectionals will have their name engraved on the Jill Meyers Trophy. The 2999 player winning the most master points at the West LA Sectionals will have their name engraved on the Mary Jane Farell Trophy. The 2009 winners were Marjorie Michelin and Alyssa Kennedy & Rick Turner.

Masterpoint Limits for all Stratified Events

unless otherwise noted

- Strat: Flight A/X 0- Unlimited
- Strats B, C, D 0-2000, 0-750, 0-300

KNOCKOUT TEAMS

Not handicapped unless only 1 bracket

1st Round	Friday, April 30	7:30 pm
2nd Round	Saturday, May 1	10:00 am
Final Round	Saturday, May 1	3:00 pm

WEST LOS ANGELES UNIT BOARD

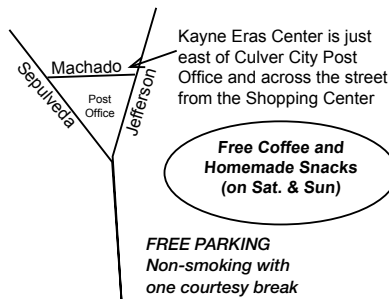
Peter Benjamin	Howard Einberg	Fred Mautner
Karen Byrd	Charles Fonarow	Mario Mory
Jordan Chodorow	Toby Green	Barbara Nusbaum
Roger Clough	Brana Hall	Candy Scott
Cecil Cook	Sam Haveson	Carolyn Taff

**CARD FEES \$10.00 PER PERSON
PER SESSION**

Non-Members and Life Masters who have not paid service fees pay \$11.00.

Students under the age of 19 play free!

Tournament Manager - Peter Benjamin
(310) 558-0888 EMAIL ahoneydo@aol.com
(310) 720-6050 (cell Peter Benjamin)
Tournament Director - Peter Knee



DIRECTIONS FROM 405

- Exit at Jefferson and go east
- Turn left onto Sepulveda
- Turn right, onto Machado from Sepulveda (or left onto Machado from Jefferson)

Be sure to hold the date for our Fall Sectional • Sept. 3 - Sept. 6

Problem Solvers' Panel

We welcome back our long time moderator, WBF World Champion and ACBL Hall of Fame member Marshall Miles, as a guest moderator this month.

This column is dedicated to Bob Kerr, who passed away in late January. Bob was an excellent player, a great gentleman, and an active theorist. Bob liked 4-card majors and strongly advocated a very aggressive style of overcalls. His convention card was marked "Overcalls: 0+, occasionally light." Bob was recently added to the expert panel, but did not get a chance to answer a problem set.

Moderator: Marshall Miles

Panel: Mark Bartusek, Leo Bell, David Chechelashvili,
Vic Chernoff, John Jones, Eddie Kantar, David Sacks, and John Swanson

1

no vul
IMPs

West	North	East	South
1NT*	dbl**	2♦***	pass
2♥	dbl	pass	?
		*11-14 hcp	
		**penalty	
		***transfer	

You hold: ♠Q862 ♥J986 ♦854 ♣Q7

What call do you make?

BARTUSEK: 2♠. Sure it could easily be best to pass partner's t/o double. In fact, I would pass if we had an agreement that it "must" be fairly balanced (i.e., no shortness). I am worried about a 4-1-4-4 hand opposite since the second double is basically takeout.

BELL: 2♠. I play the second double as takeout. You know partner has one or two hearts with a good hand. You certainly have little or no defense and four spades. I can't see any other option.

CHERNOFF: 2♠. Pass might be the winning bid, but I'm not speculating so soon. Partner has to double first with all good hands.

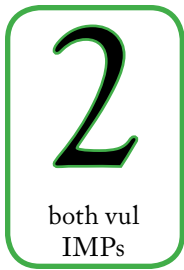
CHECHELASHVILI (JONES, SACKS and SWANSON similarly): 2♠. I usually play in my partnerships that an immediate double after a penalty

double of 1NT is a takeout double from both sides, but even if there were no such agreement, from my hand it looks like a takeout, so I am taking it out.

KANTAR: Pass. 2♠ seems a bit cowardly, 3♠ seems excessive, so I am going to pass and take my chances.

Not everyone follows up a penalty double the same way. Some players treat the first double by either partner after an initial penalty double of 1NT for takeout and say that the opponents cannot be allowed to play an undoubled contract. That seems very dangerous to me. They double with 15+ HCP and the partnership is committed to bidding or doubling any contract with possibly 15 points to the opponents' 25. Others play that a second double by the original doubler shows extra values (perhaps 19+). I am willing to play that the second double is for takeout, but don't want to commit either player to further action. I'd rather let the opponents to steal a contract, down two undoubled, than to risk doubling them into game.

[Normally letting the opponents steal for down two will mean that we have missed a game our way. Many experts like having a forcing pass available after a penalty double of a weak NT. They feel this treatment gains more IMPs than it loses. –Jones editor]



North	East	South	West
1♣	pass	1♥	pass
2♥	pass	?	

You hold: ♠762 ♥KJ82 ♦AKJ43 ♣6

What call do you make?

SWANSON: 2NT, an artificial inquiry as to the nature of partner's raise. If he shows a minimum with only three hearts (by bidding 3♣) I will try 3♦ to play in the unlikely event that he holds a singleton diamond. Otherwise I will try 4♥. I would respond 1♦ to 1♣.

SACKS: 3♣. I see no reason not to make the obvious bid. If partner bids 3♥ to sign off, I will bid a probing asking 3♠ to as to reach 3NT on some hands.

KANTAR: 3♣. I won't abstain, but why in the world didn't I respond 1♦ originally. I am strong enough to bid hearts later. Also, can the raise be made with three hearts? Shouldn't we be told that? *[Yes, it can. Isn't that standard?]* If it promises four, I would bid 4♥.

CHERNOFF: 3♣. Why didn't I bid 1♦ the first time?

CHECHELASHVILI: 4♥. I don't see a problem when vulnerable at IMPs. Might I go down? Yes, of course. It wouldn't be the first time. Bidding 3♦ will guarantee a spade lead.

BELL: 2♠. That's the call I made at the table, because we play help-suit game tries, and I needed help in spades to be in game. I didn't want to look for a better part score at IMPs. If you like to raise freely with 3-card support, then live with it or play an asking bid in this auction to find out whether partner has three or four card support with a minimum or maximum. *[2♠ might be played as natural here, especially if you freely raise on 3. Partner might have 4-3-1-5. Sometimes a 4-4 fit plays better than a 5-3. -Jones editor]*

BARTUSEK: Abstain. I would have initially

responded 1♦ followed by reversing into hearts. We currently have an auction where my next bid will not be very descriptive, and it won't necessarily get us to the right contract. It's a complete guess whether 2♠ or 3♦ will work best.

JONES: 3♦. I would have responded 1♦, not 1♥. The table hand had ♦AK10xx, not ♦AKJxx. The small change gives me enough to force to game and bid my suits in the normal order. What to bid over 2♥ is a matter of partnership style. If 3♦ confirms a fifth heart, then it is not best, and 2♠ is the only available bid. If 3♦ does not guarantee a fifth heart, then it is fine.

I cannot understand the logic of having 3♦ guarantee five or more hearts. If there is an eight-card heart fit, presumably the hand should play in hearts. A help suit game try (instead of a simple 3♥ bid) by the hand who will be declarer may help the opponents more than your partner. If you do play help suit game tries, I think they should show a suit to be helped. Is Qx a good help opposite xxx or would you rather have Qx opposite Kxx(x), for example? I think that a new suit should show either a slam interest or only a four-card suit, in which case 3NT is probably your most likely alternative. And, in determining whether 3NT is playable I think your new suit bid should show a concentration of strength, not three small. When partner bid 2♠ we got to 3NT with ♠xxx opposite a singleton instead of 4♥ or 5♦. Even 6♦ had a play.

Almost every panelist objected to the 1♥ response.



3

NS vul
IMPs

South	West	North	East
pass ?	pass	1♠	3♥

What call do you make with ♠Q8 ♥84 ♦A7652 ♣KQ42?

BARTUSEK: Double. Partner will sometimes pass for penalties with a 5-3-3-2 pattern instead of bidding a no-play 3NT. Admittedly 3♠ is a second choice instead of bidding a no-play 3NT that might work better when partner is weak. This would allow us to stop at a reasonable contract at the 3 level, but would sometimes lose the minor suit fit where we belong. The best choice also depends upon partner's proclivities toward opening a 4-card major in third seat vulnerable. (I assume Marshall believes 3♠ is percentage).

SACKS: Double. I mentally flipped a coin between 3♠ and double. Expected bad breaks in suits convinced me to try the more flexible bid.

KANTAR: Double. If partner has good spades, let him bid 3♠. *[If he does, will you pass or raise him?]*

SWANSON: Double, responsive. This seems rather routine. I will try 4♠ over four of either minor (which should indicate a doubleton spade honor. This is not a situation where one tries to stop on a dime in four of a minor. If partner removes the double to 3♠ I will also try a spade game.

In other words, you are going to commit the hand to game (probably 4♠) no matter what partner does, although you give him the option of returning to five of a minor.

CHECHELASHVILI: Double. I don't see the problem. If not double, what else?

CHERNOFF: Double (negative, of course). What's the problem?

JONES: Double, showing the minors while denying

three-card spade support, is absolutely perfect. My problems come on the next round. If partner passes, I am happy; 3NT I will pass. I will raise 3♠ to 4♠, hoping partner has a little extra since he did not make a third seat weak two bid. Four of either minor is much tougher. I have no reason to think we have enough for game, but we could. I will guess to pass either a 4♣ or 4♦ response.

BELL: Double. Marshall, I know you too well. You will advocate a 3♠ bid but this hand seems perfect for a negative double. A 3♠ bid will never allow you to reach a slam opposite something like ♠AKxxx ♥x ♦KQxx ♣Axx.

I think this is the best argument advanced for a negative double. But how many times will you have a good slam (and manage to get there) as compared to belonging in 3♠ or 4♠? Irv Kostal, a friend of mine, used a program called DealmasterPro to see how often various contracts would make. It is only a rough guideline since one has to make various assumptions such as only opening a four card major with a strong suit and 11-13 HCP, and you don't know whether the 3♥ bidder is a maniac or a conservative bidder. I don't know what Irv's assumptions were but his results were that 3♥ will make seven tricks (or more) 99% of the time, eight tricks 79% of the time and nine tricks 32%. You will make eight tricks (or more) in spades 92% of the time, nine tricks 69% and ten tricks 40%. 5-3-3-2 is the most likely distribution, and a pass by partner with ♠KQxxx ♥Kxx ♦xxx ♣Ax is somewhat dangerous, and forcing the bidding to game works less than half the time. At least, a 3♠ bid will give partner the option of passing for a probable part score and bidding game with extra values. And, you don't have to worry about what to do next round.

4

both vul
MPs

North	East	South	West
2♣	pass	3♣	pass
3♠	pass	?	

You hold: ♠--- ♥762 ♦K85 ♣KQJ10863

What call do you make?

KANTAR: 5♣. This should deny a solid suit. I think that a 3NT response should show a solid suit. Opener can then ask for length by bidding 4♣ etc. There should be a convention for hand like this like responding 2NT directly to show a one loser suit headed by the KQJ, AQJ or AKJ etc. The 2♣ bidder should be able to find out if responder has an outside king, etc. An outside ace is too strong to start with 2NT.

SACKS: 4♣. I think 4♣ on the previous round, showing a suit strong enough to play in a small slam opposite a void, would have worked better. Perhaps without that agreement 6♣ shows that hand now. There are other variables that might be good to know, such as whether we are playing NAMYATS, which would furnish negative information like whether opener could have seven solid spades, two small hearts, AQJ10 of diamonds and a void in clubs.

CHECHELASHVILI: 4♣. I'm just describing my hand.

SWANSON: 4♣. These cards seem of more value in a club contract than a spade contract, but I am not willing to assume that 5♣ is a better contract than 4♣. I would change my mind if you gave me another club. That hand is worth 5♣ over 3♠.

CHERNOFF: 4♣. What's the problem?

BARTUSEK: 5♣. My primary intent is to show partner that I have a semi-solid club suit (which 4♣ would not) in order to facilitate reaching slam. Clubs is almost assuredly the right trump suit on this hand. Perhaps I should just jump to 6♣ because of the extra diamond king, but I'm afraid that we might be off two quick tricks.

BELL: 4♣. At matchpoints, I'm mighty tempted to bid 3NT, but it would be played from the wrong side and may end the auction when we're cold for a club slam, even if partner has a club void.

JONES: 4♣. Yes, I saw that the conditions were matchpoints, but I still can't be talked into 3NT. What is the difference between 4♣ followed by 5♣ versus a direct 5♣? I believe that by today's standards the slower sequence would show a little extra and the ♦K is that extra.

Everyone has his own ideas on how to show good suits and the follow-up by partner. I think after a solid suit or one-loser suit is shown that opener should use asking bids to find out about specific controls. The important thing is to reach an agreement with your regular partner. The hand with the good suit should show it and his partner can take control of the bidding. I also think that an immediate 5♣ bid should show something like nine clubs to the QJ10 (which was a problem from a few years ago), and deny a positive response, and the jump should show suit solidity, with either one loser or no loser. So, like Eddie I favor 3♠ followed by 5♣.

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South	West	North	East
1♥ ?	pass	1♠*	2♠**

*Kaplan interchange: The 1♠ bid shows a standard 1NT response and a 1NT shows spades
**natural

You hold: ♠Q72 ♥AKQJ954 ♦8 ♣95?
What call do you make?

BARTUSEK: Close between 3♥ and 2NT. 3♥ is the normal bid while 2NT; could either result in a disaster or lead to a great low-HCP 3NT vulnerable game. The problem with 3♥ is that partner might pass when we have a cold game or he might not try 3♠ along the way without a heart honor. I think I'll gamble with 2NT (and hope pard has a heart or a third spade to get to me. (I assume Marshall believes 3♠ is percentage).

CHECHELASHVILI: 3NT. I don't see a problem. I have eight tricks and a good partner will produce one. Can I go down? Yes, of course, but a vulnerable game at imps is worth the risk.

CHERNOFF: 3♥. Not a semi-insane 2NT or 3NT. Not good enough for 4♥. Gives partner room to bid 3NT himself or to cue bid 3♠ in which case I will bid it.

But how likely is it that partner will bid 3NT when you are the one with a spade stopper? And how likely is it that partner will bid 3♠ without a heart honor, partial spade stopper, or some reason to think that you will have a very long, running heart suit?

JONES: 3♥. Our most likely game is 3NT. If I had just a tiny bit more I would bid 3NT directly and hope that spades were led, my queen holds up as a trick, and that partner produces a trick. However, if partner passes 3♥, then that could easily be all we can make. Over 3♥, partner has room to bid 3♠, over which I will happily bid 3NT.

KANTAR: 3♥. I think you told me that Leo bid 3NT with this hand. That's a bit outside of my comfort zone these days.

SACKS: 3NT. Seems like the right hand to let them try and beat me, while there are probably four quick losers in hearts.

SWANSON: 3♥. I have a lot of tricks if we get on lead, maybe too many for 3♥. An immediate 3NT conventionally shows (usually) a six card solid suit but the contract has been wrong sided. Partner may be able to bid 3NT or ask for a spade stopper with 3♠).

BELL: Marshall, at the table there was a double over 1♠, showing good spades *[since Leo was the declarer he should remember the actual bidding better than I, but a double of the artificial 1♠ bid is as likely to induce a spade lead as a natural overcall]* I chose to bid 3NT because (a) I was afraid of a spade ruff in 4♥; (b) I felt like we were behind in a match and needed a swing, and (c) I was sitting opposite the Godfather of No Trump, (our esteemed moderator), and I knew he would approve.

Dummy had ♠xxx ♥xx ♦K10xx ♣AJ8x. With the ace of diamonds and 10 of clubs favorably located, 3NT was cold against any lead or any defense. Another favorable factor was the bidding. The defense is not likely to be double dummy since the opponents will expect declarer to have more high cards and fewer heart tricks than he has.